

THE NEW AVENGERS

MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
3 of 3

ARCUDI
CANEYE
CHUCKRY

LUKE CAGE

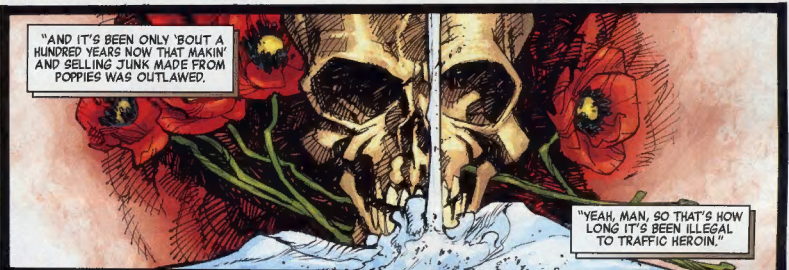
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"YOU KNOW, THE
OPIUM POPPY IS
REAL PRETTY, EVER
SEEN ONE?"

"THEY BEEN GROWING
EM LIKE SINCE
BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS,
YOU KNOW THAT?"



"AND IT'S BEEN ONLY 'BOUT A
HUNDRED YEARS NOW THAT MAKIN'
AND SELLING JUNK MADE FROM
POPPIES WAS OUTLAWED."

"YEAH, MAN, SO THAT'S HOW
LONG IT'S BEEN ILLEGAL
TO TRAFFIC HEROIN."



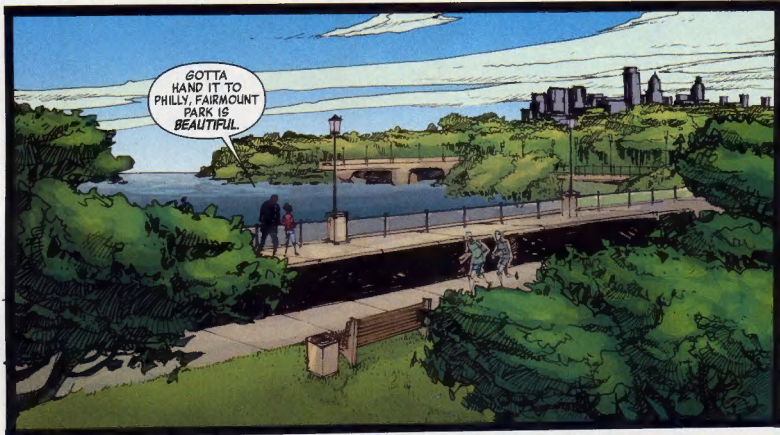
GET
IT, MAN?
"TRAFFIC."

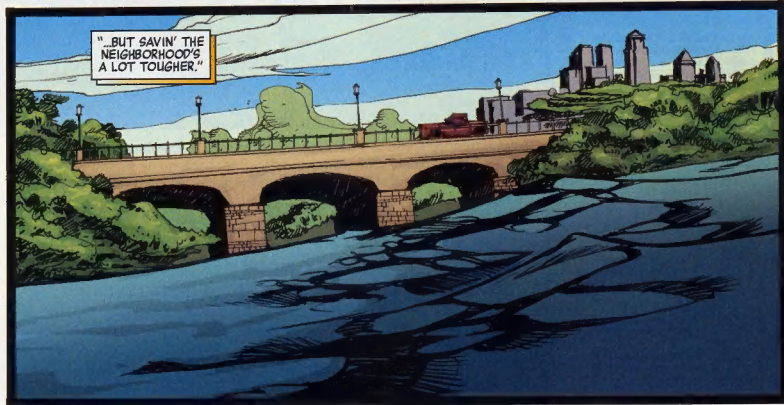
S'FUNNY,
RIGHT? CUZ IT'S IN
A VAN, RIGHT?

UH-HUH.



COME
ON, LET'S
GET THE REST.
MR. CASH WANTS
THIS MOVIN'
FAST.





Carl Lucas was a felon going nowhere who volunteered for a top secret experiment and found himself with indestructible skin and super strength. With a new lease on life, he turned it around to become the super-powered private eye, the hero for hire, the New Avenger...

LUKE CAGE

CAGE DISCOVERED DYSON GOT IT HANDED TO HIM NOT FOR TRYING TO FIGHT CRIME BUT FOR ACTING AS AN ENFORCER FOR A MYSTERIOUS DRUG TRADE--ONE WITH FAR REACHING POWER IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA...

WHEN LEOPIS DYSON, THE SON OF AN OLD CLIENT AND FRIEND, GOT PUT IN THE HOSPITAL AFTER STARTING A HERO FOR HIRE BUSINESS IN NORTH PHILADELPHIA, CAGE SWUNG DOWN TO INVESTIGATE WHO PUT HIM DOWN...AND WHY.

WITH THE HELP OF DYSON'S TECH-SAVVY COUSIN ARTHUR, CAGE TRACED A LEAD IN THE TRADE TO ENFORCER ALEJANDRO CORTEZ--FORMERLY KNOWN AS CAGE'S ARCH-ENEMY, LIONFANG!

After throwing 'Fang a beatdown, Cortez reminded Cage of a hard reality: Even a superhuman can't end crime. Once Cage goes home, the dealers will find a way back. With a wife and daughter back home in New York who need him, Luke might be out of time. But a hero can't simply walk away from a city on the brink...can he?

GONNA LEAVE ME WASTING AWAY...

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30TH STREET STATION,
PHILADELPHIA

YEAH,
I GOT EYES
ON 'IM...

I'M TELLING YOU,
MR. CORTEZ, HE'S
GETTING ON THE R7
FOR TRENTON!

FOR REAL!

LEAVING TOWN?
THAT DOESN'T SOUND
LIKE THE LUKE CAGE
I REMEMBER.

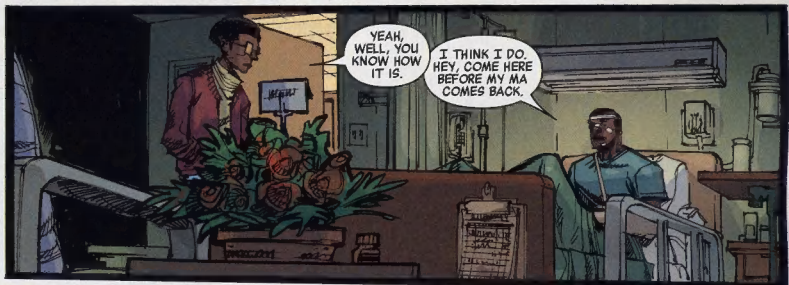
BUT IF
HE'S REALLY
CONCERNED
ABOUT HIS
FRIEND...

"ALL RIGHT. GOOD WORK KEEPING AN
EYE ON HIM, BUT GET ON THAT TRAIN
AND STAY WITH HIM UNTIL AT LEAST
TRENTON AND GET BACK TO ME.

"I'VE GOT TO CALL MR. CASH
AND TELL HIM THE HEAT'S
OFF. THE BUGGY CAN COME
BACK TO THE CATBOX."



HEY,
ARTHUR, BEEN
A WHILE.



YEAH,
WELL, YOU
KNOW HOW
IT IS.

I THINK I DO.
HEY, COME HERE
BEFORE MY MA
COMES BACK.



HOW COME
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN
BY TO TELL ME HOW IT'S
GOING? YOU KNOW,
WITH YOU AND
MR. CAGE.

WHAT? I
THOUGHT YOU
KNEW. LUKE BEAT IT
OUT ALMOST A
WEEK AGO.



NO! NO,
THAT CAN'T BE.
HE WOULDN'T
RUN OFF.

I'M SORRY,
LEODIS, BUT I TOOK
HIM TO THE STATION
MYSELF.

I THOUGHT
HE'D CALL YOU FROM
NEW YORK.



NO, MAN. I
DON'T BUY IT.
YOU GOT IT
ALL **WRONG**.

I'M TELLING
YOU, I SAW
HIM--

OKAY, SO HE
LEFT. ALL RIGHT. BUT
I'M SAYING HE HAD
A REASON.



"I'M SAYING
HE WENT TO
GET HELP."



GOOD
MORNING, MR.
HIMES.

MORNING,
WENDY. ANY
MESSAGES?



KARIE FROM CARMANELLA
CONSTRUCTION CALLED
ABOUT THE PERMITS
ON THE PASSYUNK
BROWNSTONES.

AND
FRANCIS FROM
THE CITY COUNCIL?
HE SAID YOU'D KNOW
WHAT IT WAS
ABOUT.



AND
WHAT'S **THIS**
ABOUT?

I TOLD THE
CLEANING LADY
YOU ALWAYS WANT
IT OPEN, BUT IT
WAS LOCKED WHEN
I CAME IN.

I CAN
CALL THE
AGENCY.



NONSENSE.

SHE'S JUST
THINKING OF
MY SAFETY.





MR. HIMES?
IS EVERYTHING
OKAY?



COULDN'T BE
BETTER. HOLD MY
CALLS, WILL
YOU, WENDY?



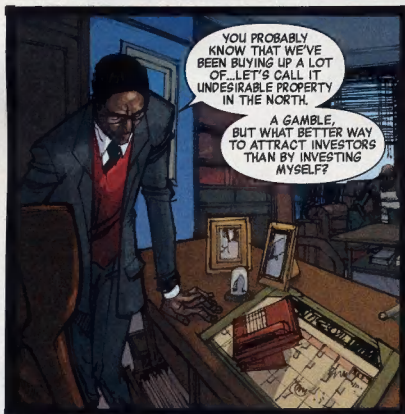
SO, MR. CAGE,
WHAT IS IT WE NEED
TO TALK ABOUT?

I'VE BEEN
SEEING YOUR
FACE ALL OVER NORTH
PHILLY, PUSHING FOR
INVESTORS IN THAT
AREA. WHY?



NO GREAT
MYSTERY. I GREW
UP IN THE 26TH
DISTRICT. THERE ARE
A LOT OF GOOD
PEOPLE THERE.

I'M A BUSINESS-
MAN, BUT I DON'T SEE
WHY I CAN'T DO BUSINESS
AND MAKE THOSE PEOPLE'S
LIVES BETTER IN
THE PROCESS.



YOU PROBABLY
KNOW THAT WE'VE
BEEN BUYING UP A LOT
OF...LET'S CALL IT
UNDESIRABLE PROPERTY
IN THE NORTH.

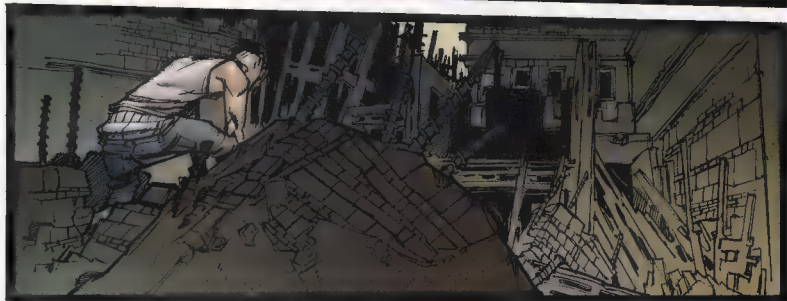
A GAMBLE,
BUT WHAT BETTER WAY
TO ATTRACT INVESTORS
THAN BY INVESTING
MYSELF?



ALL
RIGHT.

YOU NEED
TO KNOW
SOMETHING
I ALREADY
KNOW.

"SO LISTEN
GOOD."





HEY!
HEY, WHERE
YOU AT?



SAME
PLACE AS
BEFORE.

YEAH, YEAH,
OKAY. SO YOU
KEEP AXIN' ME
'BOUT THE JUNK,
RIGHT?

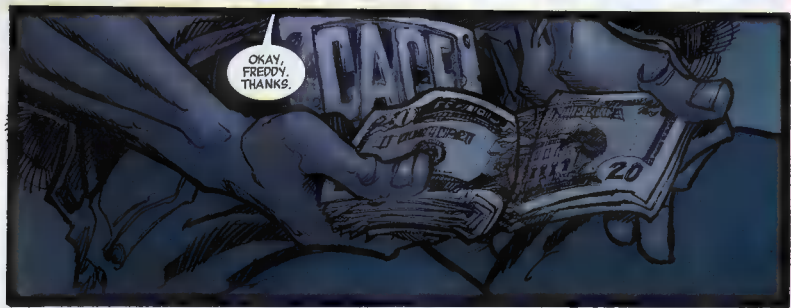
KEEP
AXIN' ME HOW
GOOD IT IS.

RIGHT.



THAT #&\$%&
IS STEPPED
ON, MAN!

— GETTIN'
WEAK FOR A WHILE,
BUT IT'S JUST 'BOUT
NO GOOD NOW IS
WHAT IT IS.

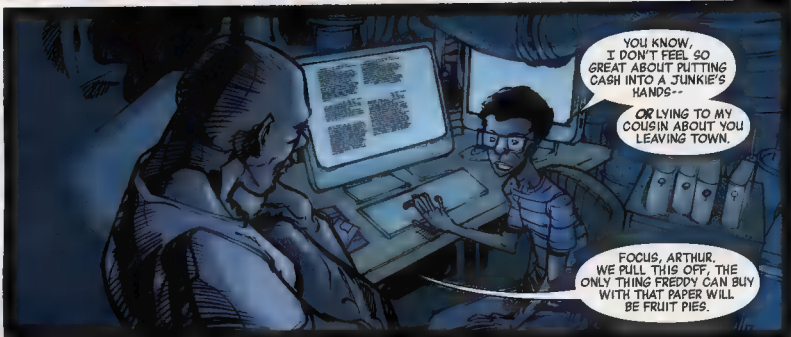


OKAY,
FREDDY.
THANKS.



ALL RIGHT,
THEY'RE CUTTING THE
DOPE WAY THIN, AND FROM
WHAT WE CAN TELL, A LOT
OF CASH HAS BEEN GOING
CORTEZ'S WAY. IT ALL
ADDS UP.

A
SHIPMENT'S
DUE.



YOU KNOW,
I DON'T FEEL SO
GREAT ABOUT PUTTING
CASH INTO A JUNKIE'S
HANDS--

OR LYING TO MY
COUSIN ABOUT YOU
LEAVING TOWN.

FOCUS, ARTHUR.
WE PULL THIS OFF, THE
ONLY THING FREDDY CAN BUY
WITH THAT PAPER WILL
BE FRUIT PIES.



WELL, KNOWING
THE DOPE'S COMING, I
SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOT SOME
PATTERNS IN THEIR PHONE
CHATTER, FIGURE OUT
THEIR CODE.

I CAN
PROBABLY COME UP
WITH A TIME FOR
DELIVERY.



ALREADY WE'VE
SEEN "CATBOX" TOSSED
AROUND A LOT. I'M BETTING
THE DELIVERY SITE IS
CORTEZ'S TIGER-GUARDED
WAREHOUSE.

THAT'LL MAKE
IT PRETTY EASY
TO INTERCEPT
THE STUFF.

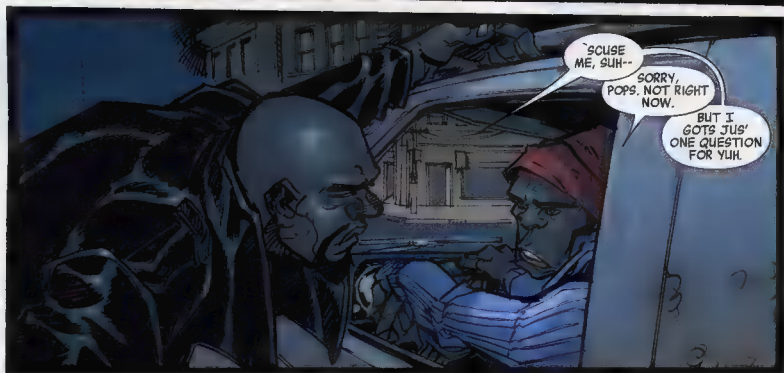


GREAT.
JUST ONE MORE
THING.

CORTEZ HAS
BEEN CALLING ONE
NUMBER A LOT SINCE I
"LEFT TOWN." THAT'S
OUR "CEO," NO
DOUBT.

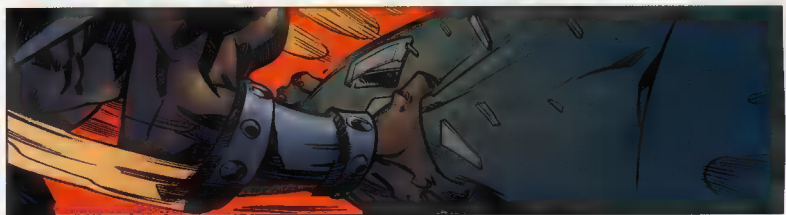
SO
GET ME A
NAME.

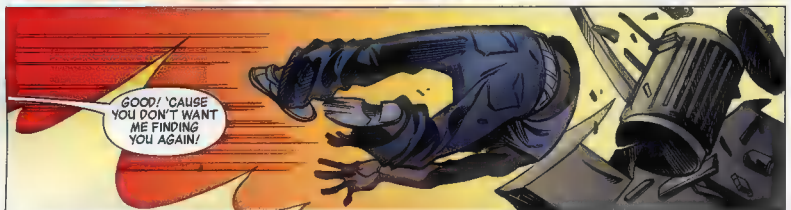














YOU DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW IT
WAS GONE,
DID YOU?

THAT'S WHY
I CAME EARLY. TO
■ THE FIRST TO
TELL YOU.



OF COURSE
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT. I'M NOT
INVOLVED.

THAT'S RIGHT,
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU
SAID THAT.



REAL ESTATE'S
A GREAT WAY TO
LAUNDER MONEY, ISN'T IT?
A LOT OF MONEY ALWAYS
MOVING AROUND.

BUT IT'S NOT
PERFECT. I MEAN, IF
SOMEONE COULD HACK INTO
YOUR ACCOUNTS, WHAT
WOULD THEY FIND?



REALLY, MR.
CAGE, I APPRECIATE
YOU COMING BY, BUT
I THINK WE'RE
DONE HERE.

SURE, YOU
HAVE LAWYERS. GOOD
ONES. IRS DOESN'T
SCARE YOU.

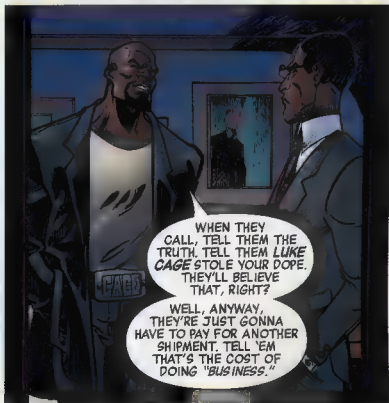
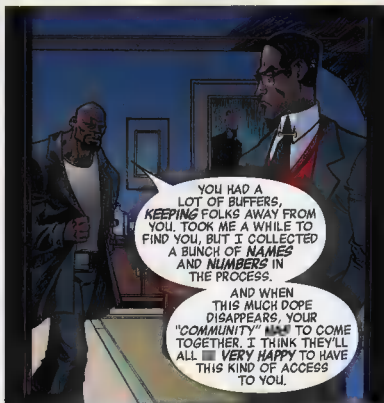


BUT YOU
KNOW, YOU GOT
BUYERS OUT THERE WAITING
ON PRODUCT. PAID YOU BIG
MONEY FOR IT, AND THEY'RE
NOT GOING TO
GET IT.

THEY'LL WANT
SOME ANSWERS,
I IMAGINE.

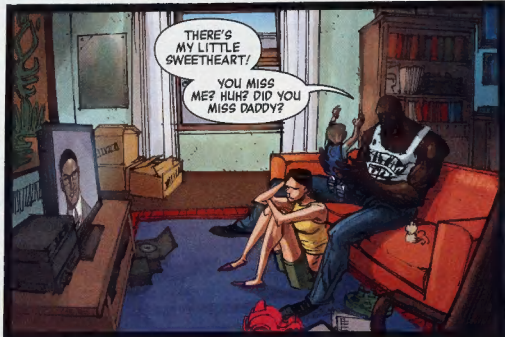


SO I
TEXTED ALL OF
THEM YOUR OFFICE
NUMBER.



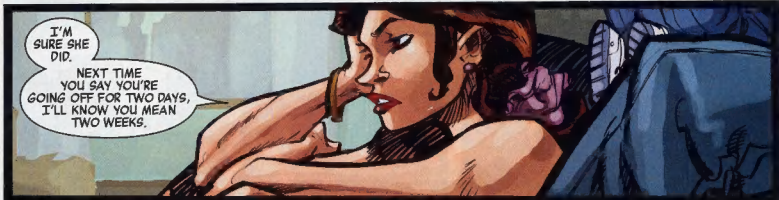


WOODWARD HIMES,
A NORTH PHILADELPHIA
BUSINESSMAN PLED GUILTY
TODAY FOR DRUG
TRAFFICKING AND
MONEY LAUNDERING...



THERE'S
MY LITTLE
SWEETHEART!

YOU MISS
ME? HUH? DID YOU
MISS DADDY?



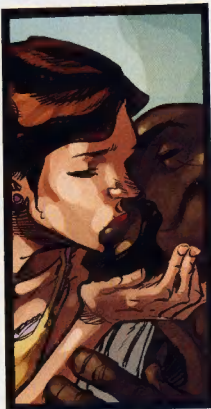
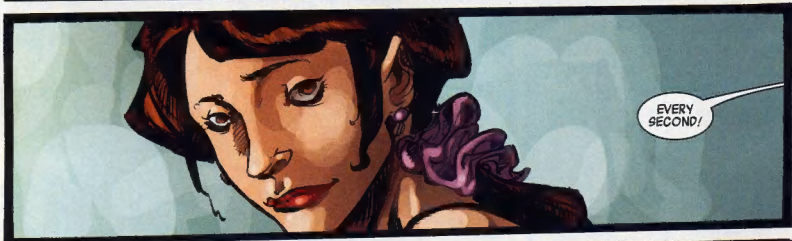
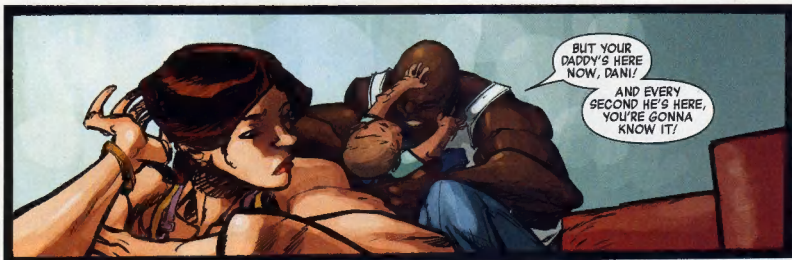
I'M
SURE SHE
DID.

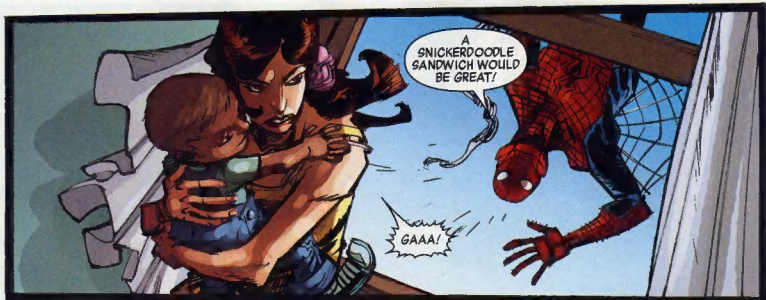
NEXT TIME
YOU SAY YOU'RE
GOING OFF FOR TWO DAYS,
I'LL KNOW YOU MEAN
TWO WEEKS.

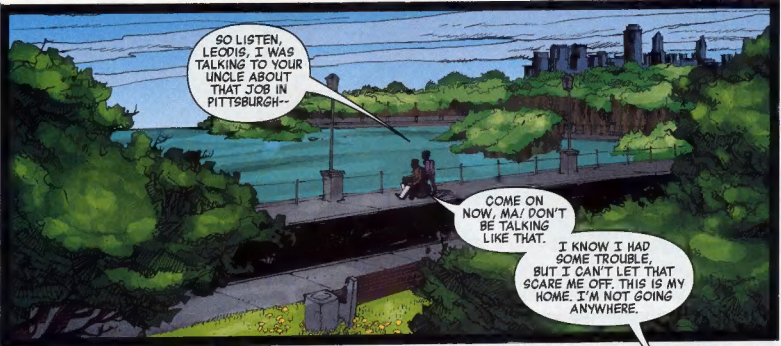


HEAR THAT,
DANI? YOUR MAMA'S
NOT TOO HAPPY WITH
YOUR DADDY.

AND SHE'S
RIGHT. I WAS AWAY
TOO LONG.







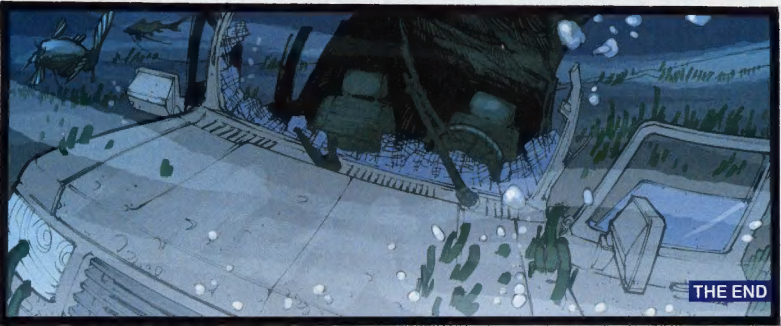
SO LISTEN,
LEODIS, I WAS
TALKING TO YOUR
UNCLE ABOUT
THAT JOB IN
PITTSBURGH--

COME ON
NOW, MA! DON'T
BE TALKING
LIKE THAT.

I KNOW I HAD
SOME TROUBLE,
BUT I CAN'T LET THAT
SCARE ME OFF. THIS IS MY
HOME. I'M NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.



AFTER ALL,
SOMEBODY'S GOT
TO WATCH OUT
FOR PHILLY!



THE END